

CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL
MEETING: February 12, 2010, 6PM

Begin: 6:15 PM
End: 7:40 PM

MINUTES: The minutes were reviewed and a motion to approve (Lori) was seconded (Rosanna) and unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jason discussed the working sheets for the FY2011 Arts Council budget and its relationship to the overall Department of Public Celebrations. Major departmental accomplishments included the first full year of the Poet Populist Program; the collaboration with the city and community to develop site responsive public art projects at various locations in the city; the 31st Cambridge River Festival; the second year of First Mondays@CAC Gallery, the second year of Cambridge Open Studios; the distribution of \$51,000 to artists and cultural organizations and Pass Grants for students via the CAC Grant Program; the producing of the 18th season of Summer in the City with free performances for youth in public spaces throughout the city; a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund the Public Art Youth Council and workshops and events related to the City's public art works. Accomplishments also pointed to further development of the department website and information databases and the collaboration and/or sponsorship of various citywide arts-related events. Jason reiterated the goal of CAC to ensure that the arts play an important and active role in the daily life of people living, working or visiting in Cambridge.

Jason showed members a copy of the new Cambridge Arts Council letterhead, listing the members of the Cambridge Arts Council (also frequently referred to as the Advisory Board of the Cambridge Arts Council), the Public Art Commission, the Trustees, CAC Fund, Inc., and the Executive Director.

On February 1, 2010 the First Monday@CAC Gallery will open a preview exhibition, entitled *100 From Cambridge*, for Cambridge Open Studios (COS) featuring 100 artworks by local artists. Current participants include 170 individual artists, 10 organizations and between 5-8 Common Venues. In total the 2010 program will be spread across 91 locations throughout the neighborhoods of Cambridge.

Jason also discussed the SlideRoom resource, a web-based, user-friendly digital infrastructure that operates as an information database that can host digital information from artists on visual art as well as videos and recorded files. Jason asked Matt to discuss his use of SlideRoom as a juror for the selection of finalists for the new Public Art Program commission on Cambridge Street. Matt was highly positive in his response and explained that the system allowed jurors to pre-evaluate over a hundred artists from the comfort of their home or office in order to be well-prepared for the group meeting and use time efficiently.

BOARD PROJECTS Members were provided with detailed hardcopy versions of the sponsorship ask letters both for individual Community Arts-related programs and for the Community Arts Program as a whole. Jason discussed the work that has been done by Julie Madden, Director of Community Arts, himself and the team of graduate interns to revise the language and details continued in these documents. He explained how the work and discussions of the CAC members had informed the effort to begin approaching individuals - and particularly local businesses and corporations - to develop more in-depth and long range relationships. He discussed the efforts to both support and benefit from a relationship with Cambridge Local First and that there had already been good examples of positive response to the solicitation letters.

Members took time to review the documents and make comments. Along with the documents, they also saw the response cards that accompany each "ask" and provide an opportunity for individuals and businesses to choose the program area that they feel most passionate or closely related to and would like to support. In general, members were pleased with the

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OTHER BUSINESS Jason showed slides of Phyllis' photographs of the public artwork *Filament/Firmament* installed by artist Ellen Driscoll at the new Cambridge Public Library Main Branch. The images provided details of the various components of the project including etched glass, textile/weaving patterns and woven cable that together serve to honor the contributions of women to civic life. Jason also showed the digitalized public art tour on the CAC website and reminded members of this as a resource for individuals and the public in general.

Jason also pointed out the memo and request by the City Manager for all staff and appointed officials (Board & Commission members) to review the guidelines provided by the State Ethics Commission and related to service in the public sector. He explained that all staff, Board, Commission members and Trustees of the CAC Fund, Inc. would be required to review this information and complete a short review and test. Proof of participation in the review is required (PDF copy should be directed to Jason directly) by all members and will be placed on file with the Arts Council and the City Clerk's office. Jason agreed to follow this information up with an e-mail reminder and link to the Ethics Commission report.

Members Present: Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro, Barbara Baker, Lori Lander, Charles Norris, Matthew Weinberg. Staff: Jason Weeks, Executive Director

Members Absent: Lori Damon, Aliyah Gary, James Lawson, Andrew Mroczek, Charles Norris, Jeff Walker, Phyllis Bretholtz